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on the part of the physician who had treated him for his pneumonia. I questioned him in detail. He said that his father had suffered his life-long with headaches, but that he himself had in his youth only temporary headaches. Only since the pneumonia, i. e., since the remark of the physician, had the headaches increased, and becoming completely localized, had never left him for a moment. I then declared to him categorically that the physician had at that time made a stupid remark, that the headaches were not an inheritance and could be easily removed and that I would now cure him completely. I hypnotized him again, laid my hands on both sides of his head, suggested a strong electric current (which was of course not present) and declared the headaches to be now completely and definitely past forever. When he awoke the headache was gone. And in fact this single hypnotizing was sufficient to remove the headaches, at least up to the present;—to be sure, only four months have passed. After exhaustive night-watches and the like he has a few times had temporary headaches, but the chronic trouble is over.

This case seems to me very instructive, because it shows how easily physicians without knowing it can produce sicknesses that are not present by means of pessimistic prophecies, by anxious looks or by making the patient anxious. These are diseases suggested by the physician; they are not imaginations of the patient, but can be really painful, obstinate and serious troubles. Just as suggestion can cure an existing sickness, so it can produce one that does not exist. It is a two-edged sword, but is dangerous only when used by people that do not understand it. For this very reason it is necessary that the subject should form part of a physician's training.

In earlier years I myself evidently committed the very same fault as the physician just mentioned. An attendant suffered, as on previous occasions, from disturbances of the digestions and said she had pains in the stomach. We made an investigation, palpated the stomach carefully, asked if she felt pains, to which she answered in the affirmative. We thought we had found the sore place, looked sober and ordered milk diet and strict rest in bed, for we thought we had found an ulceration of the stomach. The cardialgia and the painfulness for pressure on the particular place in question grew continually worse; the patient could scarcely retain the milk, became emaciated and lamented much. Nevertheless no hemorrhage followed and otherwise no objective symptom could be discovered. For several months we kept her in bed. Gradually she recovered; yet for years the stomach remained very sensitive and we really believed that an ulceration of the stomach had taken place. After I had at a later date, 1887, through Bernheim in Nancy, become acquainted with suggestion, I hypnotized this attendant also. She proved to be extremely suggestive; everything succeeded with her, even the most absurd and intensive effects. It was a light matter to produce complete health in her case. Since that time we have had no occasion to trouble ourselves about her health. In the two other institutions in which she has since been employed it has remained excellent. In my mind there is not the slightest doubt that her former long sickness, together with the emaciation and debility, was called forth by our anxious investigation and the strict regulations made through fear of a perforation of the stomach. She surely had no ulceration of the stomach, and if we had at that time been acquainted with suggestion we could have cured her digestive troubles, together with the cardialgia and pains from pressure, in a few days.

PROF. A. FOREL.

EYE TESTS ON CHILDREN.

Tests on the strength of sight were made in the public schools of Worcester, Mass., U. S. A., in connection with the physical measure-

ments carried on last spring. In tabulating the results those cards showing defects of less than fifteen per cent. from the normal were thrown out, as it had been found that an almost imperceptible decrease in the amount of light had a comparatively great effect on the result and consequently these cards were within the limits of error. A cloudy day likewise caused the percentage to drop, as did also fatigue. In sorting the cards after this elimination, it was found that out of 793 boys 308 or 38.84%, and out of 602 girls 313 or 52% were short-sighted.

The cards were now arranged according to the school-grades. In the first two grades the percentage of defective eyes is lower for girls than for boys, but in the others the reverse is the case. On the other hand the results vary from grade to grade. Both boys and girls start with a low per cent., 35, for the boys and 31.4 for the girls. In the next two grades a great increase is observed, the figures being 52.7% and 67% for boys and girls respectively. In the fourth grade there is a drop to 38% and 48.9% respectively, in the fifth a slight increase to 41.6% and 51% and then a steady decline to the ninth grade, where it is 18% for the boys and 24% for the girls.

The importance of this fact lies in its bearing on the question of the influence of growth on the susceptibility to disease. This rapid decrease in the percentage of defective eyes corresponds in time with the acceleration of growth attendant on the period of adolescence. It has generally been supposed that this increased rapidity of growth is attended by an increased susceptibility to disease and injury, but the observations made by Dr. Axel Key in the Swedish schools seem to completely refute this idea. He found that at no time were children better able to withstand disease than at this period, while before and after it they were especially susceptible. The decrease in the percentage of defective eyes at this period may be accounted for on the same ground.

The cards were also sorted with respect to the amount of weakness of sight found in each sex and finally with respect to the amount of weakness displayed by each of the eyes. Among the boys 46.5% were between 0.62 and 0.85 of the normal strength, 24.2% were between 0.50 and 0.62 of the normal, while 30.25% were below this. Among the girls the percentages were 47.8%, 24.25% and 28% respectively. Among the boys both eyes were defective in 53.77%, the right eye in 19.6% and the left eye in 26.63% of the cases. For the girls the figures were 56.58% for both eyes, 20.55% for the right eye and 22.86% for the left eye. From this it would seem that the left eye in both sexes is more likely to be defective than the right eye and in boys more often than in girls. Among boys the defects seem to be more serious in a larger number of cases.

The instruments used in the tests were the Snellen test-types for the first five grades and the Galton eye-test for the other grades. The use of the former was necessary in the lower grades on account of the youth of the children. The variation between the results of the two instruments falls within the limit of error for fatigue or change of illumination and so has no influence on the results as reckoned above.

G. M. WEST, PH. D.

REACTION.

KÜLPE UND KIRSCHMANN. *Ein neuer Apparat zur Controle zeitmessender Instrumente.* Beschrieben von O. Külpe und A. Kirschmann. Phil. Stud., 1892, VIII. 145-172.

TITCHENER. *Zur Chronometrie des Erkennungsactes.* Phil. Stud., 1892., VIII., 138-144.

Dr. Külpe and Dr. Kirschmann describe an instrument devised by Prof. Wundt to regulate the Hipp electric chronoscope. It is now